



INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



COMMUNITY COURT - Commissioner Shannon Langston

Q - Is the food pantry for defendants only?

A - No; the pantry is open to everyone.

Q - What classes are offered?

A - Women's group for prostitutes; Minor in Possession; PACE reemployment assistance; Treatment Readiness for any alcohol offenses; Community Impact Panels; CTP - drug/alcohol issues.

Q - What do you do?

A - Work with defendants arrested in our catchment area for low level offenses (misdemeanors only) to earn dismissals for most defendants by repaying the community and attending treatment classes. Restoring dignity and respect.

CRIME STOPPERS - Sergeant Steven Dubois

Q - Does the tipster to Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana stay anonymous?

A - Yes, Crime Stoppers does not deal with names. We give our tipsters code words or phrases to use when they contact us, we do not want to know a tipsters name. We do not have call ID or recorded voice lines. We employ a call center, which answers for us after hours. The call center is out of state and uses the same safeguards we do. Our web and text traffic is screened by a third party that is located out of state. Code numbers replace all IP address (web tip) or phone numbers (text tips). All tipsters must contact Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana directly and anonymous for the tipster to be eligible for a reward. Tipsters who call law enforcement directly are not eligible for Crime Stoppers Rewards.

Q - Does Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana check the credibility of each tip before the tip is sent on to law enforcement?

A - No; tips are considered lead information only. Detectives and officers have to investigate each tip and validate the tips contents.

Q - Who does Crime Stoppers pay rewards on? Only subjects with active warrants?

A - No, Crime Stoppers will pay a reward on any unsolved felony case were the tip leads to an arrest. It is up to the law enforcement agency to inform Crime Stoppers they have made an arrest using a Crime Stoppers tip. Crime Stoppers will pay a reward on any felony warrant arrest that was issued out of one or our 18 service counties, or a reward will be paid if a wanted felony subject is arrested in one of our 18 service counties (felony warrant issued from outside our c. Service area).

Q - Are Crime Stoppers rewards paid on arrest or conviction?

A - Crime Stoppers pays rewards based on arrest not conviction. We don't want our tipsters in tipsters in court so this is why the program pays on arrest.

DEPARTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT- Adam Baker

Q - What happens with overgrown grass and weeds?

A - High Weeds and Grass are an environmental public nuisance and has a negative effect on public health and safety. Besides being unsightly, High Weeds and Grass can harbor pests and vermin, and can also conceal illegal activities. According to Chapter 575 of the Revised Code, vegetation over 12 inches in height is considered High Weeds and Grass. Citizens can report High Weeds and Grass to the Mayor's Action Center and Code Enforcement will inspect the property and determine if High Weeds and Grass exists. If High Weeds and Grass does exist, the property owner will be notified and then have five days to mow the property. If the

property is not mowed, Code Enforcement will have a city-contracted vendor mow the property and the homeowner will be charged \$353 for the abatement process.

Q - How do I know if I need a permit?

A - You can contact Code Enforcement at 327-8700 and let one of our representatives speak with you regarding your projects and any necessary permits and plan submittals.

DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT- Brad Beaubien

Q - Long Term Reuse of Old City Hall?

A - DMD has brought new life to Old City Hall, rebranded as “the Hall” (www.plan2020.com/hall) to support a major planning initiative for the city. After this short-term reuse, we continue to work very actively on a couple of reuse potentials.

Q - How can we activate park spaces and provide places for youth to get off the streets, particularly in the winter time. An idea from Fort Bliss in Texas was shared?

A - There is a network of multi-purpose Community Centers operated by non-profit organizations as well as family centers in several larger parks operated by Indy Parks that provide places and programming for residents, including youth. In the summertime, many of these facilities also provide free meals for youth. Activating parks is something we are very interested for several reasons. First, parks with a variety of different attractions will attract more and more types, of people, which improve their safety. Second, active parks can be the focus of neighborhood revitalization, and this is something you’ll soon see with improvements to Tarkington Park financed by our Midtown tax increment financing district. We hope this park sparks revitalization of a commercial village at 38th and Illinois Streets. Finally, from a public stewardship perspective, taxpayers pay to mow and maintain our existing parks whether they’re used or not. Activating them makes more efficient use of our collective public investment.

Q - Desire for more greenways, bike lanes, and safer places to bike?

A - By the time 2015 comes around, we’ll have gone from fewer than 2 miles of bike lanes to 200, built the Cultural Trail, started Bike Share, and launched the Bike Hub downtown. Indy was also just named a Green Lane community, which will provide assistance to create additional, or upgrade existing bike lanes, to separated bike lanes. The Greenways Master Plan was also just adopted that proposes more than 200 additional miles of greenways throughout Marion County. The key to all of this is funding. The Mayor’s proposed Rebuild Indy 2 project list includes a number of trail and bike infrastructure additions.

Q - Desire for more transit options?

A - Transit has been a painfully slow process, but we’re making headway. IndyGo’s Downtown Transit Center should break ground this fall and open next fall, providing a central transfer point for all downtown lines and significantly upgrading the image of transit. IndyGo is also currently beginning an update to their “Comprehensive Operational Analysis” aka Bus Plan that will explore changes to the existing system. Long-term, the IndyConnect vision plan proposes 5 rapid transit lines throughout Marion County and extending in to Hamilton and Johnson counties. This plan requires new local funding, and after four years the State Legislature finally authorized a somewhat complex pathway to a voter referendum to approve funding for the system. The current legislation would require a “pay as you go” model over a bonding (borrowing) model, so the system would only be built as the bank account grows....which will mean building the system in increments. However, to prepare for competing for federal funding, many processes and studies are underway. We’ll be updating the Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinance (to accommodate denser, transit-oriented urban villages) and the Thoroughfare Plan (to accommodate the transit lines in our street network) that are necessary pre-requisites in the federal funding system. If a referendum comes, the fall of 2016 would be the earliest.

Q - How to purchase/use vacant or abandoned buildings?

A - This is surprisingly complex. When properties miss tax payments, the Treasurer holds tax sale where people can bid on the properties. But the owners have a year to pay the bidder back before the deed actually

transfers, so there is at least a year of limbo. If the original owner doesn't pay up, the deed goes to the bidder and the property is theirs. There are lots of properties that nobody bids on, and the original owners don't pay taxes on. The taxes and oftentimes fees for things like mowing and boarding just pile up and make the properties less and less appealing (i.e. more expensive) for people to buy. The City does not own these because the deed remains in the original owner's name. They're in another level of limbo. DMD can, has, and does acquire some of these and we have the power to clean the title, wipe the fees, and try to find a new life. Today this is done through our non-profit partner Renew Indianapolis. They have a process by which you can purchase these "land bank" properties.

EXCISE POLICE - Investigator Glenis Bell

Q - What are you doing proactively as an agency to keep Alcohol out of the hands of our youth?

A - Some of the initiatives that are in place are:

- **Q - SAC - Survey of Alcohol Compliance.** Through this program, Excise officers are partnered with 18 – 20 year olds and are assigned different alcoholic beverage outlets to check and see if they are complying with state law regarding serving Alcoholic Beverages to minors.
- **I.C.E. - Intensified College Enforcement.** This program involves Excise officers working the various college campuses around the state. Our goal is to deter minors in the college setting from engaging in the buying and/or consuming of alcoholic beverages.

Q - How many times do we have to get a complaint or issue before we close a business or establishment?

A - The Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) is responsible for over 10,000 licenses across the State. These licenses are for the selling, distributing and manufacturing of Alcoholic beverages in the state of Indiana. We must first understand that the ATC is a state agency and the State of Indiana is not in the business of shutting down businesses. There are checks and balances that in place to make sure Businesses have the environment to succeed. The Alcoholic Beverage Industry has rights and processes available to them that prevent the Excise police from going into an establishment and "shut them down". We can't go in like storm troopers and shut them down; the process has to be played out. That's where the community comes in. We need each of you to report any and every complaint you see. We need the community to be our eyes and ears. When you see an offense or you think it's an offense, call us. Only when we let the process play out properly can we (community included) shut a business down for excessive or egregious violations.

FIRE MARSHALL - Mary Pitts

Q - What does a Fire Marshall do?

A - The job of a Fire Marshall is very rewarding. The main job of a Fire Marshal is to inspect buildings for fire code violations. There are many different kinds of building that we inspect on an annual basis; apartments, businesses, high rises, schools, restaurants, hospitals, health care facilities, etc.

-We address issues as small as having the address on the building to seeing that fire alarm and sprinkler systems are in working order. There are some violations that need to be addressed immediately such as blocked exits or a life safety system not working.

-We also do public education. We go out to schools and attend major events such as the Kids 500 Festival. We put on our own events like El Grand Escape, Firefighter for a Day and the Fire Olympics. Then there are senior citizens events. We have the Survive Alive program at our union hall on Mass. Av. And trailer events that teach children to get out safely. We use sayings like "Get low and go" and "Stop, Drop, Cover, and Roll".

-An important program we do is called C.E.N.T. which stands for Code Enforcement Night Team. These operations involve going to the nightclubs late at night looking for overcrowding and blocked exits.

Q - How do you become a Fire Marshall?

A - To become a Fire Marshall it is recommended that you have a certificate of Fire Inspector 1 and 2. Go to the City's job opportunity web site and apply when there is an opening.

INDIANAPOLIS DOWNTOWN INC. (IDI) - Bettye Dobkins

Q - Recycling concerns?

A - The first suggestion to Indianapolis Downtown Inc was that Indianapolis needs to go further with its recycling by actually making products with the recyclables. For instance, make composite materials for construction, playground equipment and synthetic mulch. Jobs could be created for these utilizing vacant factories.

Q - A second suggestion was given that there should be cameras placed in the parks to protect children.

A - My response was that I would pass this on to IMPD Homeland Security. I also said that IMPD would probably check the incidents stats for the parks to see if there truly was a need. The city has placed cameras in key areas. I believe that they periodically reassess placement via crime stats and radio runs.

Q - There is a continuing concern regarding the American Legion Mall (ALM) owned by the State of Indiana. The drinking, etc. that occurs throughout and especially on the North side adjacent to the Indianapolis Public Library creates fear for patrons of the library as well as discouraging visitors from entering ALM. What's being done?

A - IMPD has been targeting this area with patrols and undercover operations. Arrests have been made. Indianapolis Downtown Inc. has supplemented IMPD's patrols. The area continues to be an eyesore and is uninviting. It is recommended that law enforcement from the State and IMPD create a work plan to greatly diminish, if not, totally eradicate the problem.

IMPD DOWNTOWN DISTRICT- Captains Phillip Burton and Joseph Finch

Q - What can we do about the Legion Mall?

A - Downtown District does work in coordination with the Capitol Police and other Law enforcement resources to improve the environment in and around the American Legion Mall. The district has developed and implemented several initiatives in the mall and dedicates resources on a daily basis to actively police the area to reduce crime and improve the quality of life.

Q - Several Recruit Candidates inquired about how to get assigned to Downtown District?

A - We would love to have them all but it will most likely be a few years before they would be eligible for assignment Downtown.

Q - An idea was put forward to allow kids (12 years of age and up) who live outside of Downtown to work with IMPD Downtown District to "police" the juveniles that come downtown and cause trouble?

A - There are a number of logistical issues with this idea. However, IMPD currently offers a number of opportunities for youth to get involved with IMPD and serve their community in a positive way. To obtain additional information, please contact the IMPD Community Affairs Unit at (317)327-3187.

Q - Is Downtown District ready for the Indiana Black Expo and other events this year? Will curfew be enforced?

A - Yes. Downtown District, with the assistance of other IMPD resources is prepared and has become very adept at managing major events. Major departments from across the country often come here to learn what is done to make us so successful. As with any event large or small we certainly enforce the local curfew laws, but first give parents an opportunity to pick up their child or children prior to them being transported to the juvenile center.

Q - What is the major crime issue in downtown Indianapolis?

A - The district has seen a major reduction in violent crime. However, we tend to see our Larceny from vehicles increase during some of the larger events downtown, primarily involving our out of town guest's vehicles. Additionally, we conduct Community Walks, Task Force and Neighborhood meetings to provide literature in an effort to educate our downtown residents on what to do to prevent becoming a victim of this type of crime.

IMPD DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMUNITY PROSECUTOR - April Fisher

Q - How do prosecutors and police officers generally communicate? Is there a formal process?

A - No, it is rather informal. We generally email or call each other.

Q - Why doesn't Indiana require front and rear plates?

A - Honestly, I'm not sure, but here is a great article from a news source in Cleveland discussing the pros and cons of requiring front plates.

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2013/05/state_lawmakers_want_to_change.html

Q - Why isn't anything being done on the case where I was robbed?

A - The Marion County Prosecutor's Office does not generally investigate crimes. Our main function is to file charges based on investigations of other law enforcement agencies. However, we do have district prosecutors in every IMPD district that will be happy to look up a case and check its status. They can also work with the district detectives to determine if a case is strong enough to be pursued or to try to find ways to further develop a case.

Q - Can you charge someone with a crime if you don't know his/her name?

A - We need some sort of unique identifier in order to charge someone.

Q - Do you have a restorative justice program?

A - Our Community Court program is all about offender accountability and making amends with the community. Offenders will pay restitution where applicable, do community service work in the areas where they offended, and they participate in programs where they learn about the impact of their crime on the community from community members. If you would like to volunteer for a community impact panel please contact Mark Taxter at mark.taxter@indy.gov. We are always looking for volunteers and it's a wonderful way to get involved.

Q - How does my neighborhood start a crime watch program?

A - Send me an email at april.fisher@indy.gov and I will put you in touch with someone who can come to your next neighborhood meeting to explain the process. Or you can also call me at 327-5291.

Q - Did you leave the last community conversation with a sense of hope? If not, what's the point?

A - I would be lying (and probably super-human) if I said I left every meeting feeling hopeful and full of cheer. Just like everyone else, I experience the normal ups and downs of life. However, those of us in public service do get ideas from these meetings that we jot down. They might be big ideas, or just little things to look into. I enjoy working with the community and I think it's important to try to see things from the community's perspective.

Q - Isn't it important to rehabilitate criminals and not just punish them?

A - Yes, but I believe accountability and accepting the consequences for your actions is part of the rehabilitative process.

IMPD GANG UNIT- Sergeant Edward Bruce

Q - What advice do you have for active gang members?

A - Things have to change at home. Parents need to be parents and not a kid's best friend.

IMPD NARCOTICS UNIT- Sergeant Edward Bruce

Q - How long does it take from the time a drug house is identified to when action can be taken?

A - It can take as short as one day to several months.

Q - How useful are the surveillance cameras?

A - Very useful when they work.

IMPD PANHANDLING/HOMELESSNESS UNIT- Sergeant Robert Hipple

Q - What can I do to help the homeless?

A - There are several organizations that can use your assistance. The PourHouse Inc. is looking for donations, supplies, and has volunteer opportunities. <http://www.pourhouse.org/>

-The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention has links to various opportunities to help. <http://www.chipindy.org/>

-The IMPD Homeless Unit can be reached at 327-6506 or Robert.Hipple@indy.gov

Q - Where do you take Immediate Detentions?

A - Immediate Detentions are either taken to the patients treating mental health facility or the nearest mental health facility.

Q - Is there a new panhandling law/ordinance yet?

A - There is not a new panhandling ordinance

Q - I am a homeless Navy veteran, what can you do about that?

A - The IMPD Homeless Unit does Outreach on Tuesdays with Eskenazi mental health focusing on veterans and their specific needs

IMPD RECRUITING - Officer Michael Wolley

Q - Will the applicants have enough time to give their current employers a two weeks' notice?

A - The IMPD Human Resources Unit is working rigorously with our vendors to ensure we are able to identify and select the most qualified and brightest recruit class. Unfortunately, there are many steps involved with the selection process. It is the IMPD's goal to ensure we give the applicants enough time to inform their current employer so they may leave in good standing.

Q -What should an applicant expect in the academy?

A - The IMPD Police Academy is designed to provide the building blocks for a safe and successful police officer in the metro area. Applicants should anticipate being pushed mentally and physically harder than any other experience in their lives. The staff will often ask recruits to do seemingly impossible things in order to build mental and physical toughness. The academy is looking to develop a teambuilding environment with the goal of equipping recruits to face any challenge they may encounter on the street. Applicants must enter the academy in top physical condition in order to endure the training needed to prepare them for a career in law enforcement.

Q - What interview tips can you provide applicants?

A - Applicants should always remember to look for unique ways to disclose job related information, job experience, and training into the interview questions. Applicants should also remember to read all the information they are provided. It is essential to pay attention to detail and provide answers for every question.

Q - What should applicants do to prepare for the Academy?

A - Applicants should continue a workout routine to ensure they are prepared for the physical and mental demands of the IMPD Training Academy. Applicants should take time to enjoy their family and friends in social settings because time will be limited once training begins.

Q - Why were the IMPD Applicants asked to participate in the Downtown Community Conversation?

A - The IMPD intends to show potential employees that we are dedicated to improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods we serve. The IMPD puts community engagement at the top of its priorities. The IMPD needs the ideas, information, and support of the city to ensure justice and order within the communities we protect. This philosophy of community must be ingrained into the applicants as early as possible.

Q - What will the IMPD look for during the background section of the hiring process?

A - The background phase encompasses, but not limited to the following; a criminal background check, applicant's driving record, references, financial records, and work history. The background phase also includes a polygraph, medical and psychological evaluation.

Q - What is the most effective way to market the IMPD youth focused programming?

A - Using social media, email blasts, print ads, television, and radio are some of the more modern ways of marketing information. Technology has become so advanced that it can isolate a person's interest based on frequently visited internet sites and recent purchases. Technology can then market certain items based on common interest hoping to attract attention or consumers. When it comes to childcare or youth programming there is an element of trust that must be inserted. The best way to market youth programming is word of mouth. Parents want to know that they can trust a company or the IMPD with their kids. It is easier for a parent to market programming to another known parent than to take the word of a stranger. Parents must do their part to spread the word about the positive programming that the IMPD offers.

IMPD TRAFFIC BRANCH - Sergeant James B. McAtee

Q - Can section along Michigan Street east of Park become "No Parking"?

A - Contact the Department of Public Works to do an assessment of the area. Based on their assessment, if the area is approved for "No Parking", their recommendation would be forwarded to Code Enforcement for the necessary signage. For assistance, contact (317)327-4622 Mayor's Action Center.

Q - How does the Traffic Branch assist with the crime reduction efforts Downtown?

A - Although not our primary function, the Traffic Branch does assist with crime reduction in the downtown area by providing resources during many of the events.

INDYGO - Aletra Edison

Q - How do we deal with security of individuals riding the coach? Do we work with IMPD and Campus security to handle issues that arise with students? Do we anticipate passage of all mass transit units?

A - We work in cooperation with IMPD and DHS and other law enforcement agencies to coordinate transportation needs in the event of natural disasters, as well as we have up to 15 cameras and audio per coach. We also employ off-duty officers to assist in and around coach stops and shelters. Because of this, we have seen a decrease in panhandling and person-to-person crimes and around the stops in the downtown area coach stops areas.

IU HEALTH SECURITY- Joseph Anderson

Q - What are the areas of responsibilities for IU Health Security?

A - Methodist, Riley, IU Hospitals. Additionally, provide safe, secure environment; liaison with IMPD.

Q - What does IU Health do for active shooter training?

A - Developing our training protocols and developing live scenario training.

JUVENILE COURT - Judge Marilyn Moores

Q - What programs are there to connect youth with?

A - Outreach Inc - Al Teaters (East New York & Rural); TRP Connection; Contact Marilyn.moores@indy.gov

NUISANCE ABATEMENT- Sergeant William Carter

Q - Seek jobs and community cleanup projects for homeless people in the city?

A - We have the day center on Washington Street and keep Indy beautiful, but neither sponsors any kind of cleanup programs.

Q - What to do with the abandoned homes and the surrounding areas near the homes. Trash and high weeds usually surround the properties the time frame to get the grass cut is a very long delay?

A - The new ordinance now allows other people to paint over graffiti of abandoned homes. I have spoken to city officials about targeting an area of City Owned properties to clean them up with DPW personnel. This is currently being considered for the MND 10 in conjunction with a sweep taking place in June.